

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving ~~desired~~-image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising:

an extractor for extracting ~~[[an]]~~ image data ~~[[of]]~~ from a predetermined region ~~from said~~ of at least one of said items of image data registered in said image database;

a retrieval key image designator for designating said extracted image data as ~~an image~~ serving as a retrieval key image; and

a retriever for ~~using~~ comparing said retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data and retriev[[e]]ing from said image database image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said image of said predetermined region is an image of a face of a person.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said designator designates more than one said retrieval key image.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said extractor extracts more than one said image of said predetermined region from said image data in said image database for storage and said designator designates a ~~desired~~ retrieval key image from said more than one image of said predetermined region stored.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said retriever uses said designated retrieval key image to retrieve more than one item of image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said designator designates more than one retrieval key image.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising: ~~In order to retrieve desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, an image data retrieval program causing a computer to effect the steps of:~~

referring to ~~said~~ a plurality of items of image data registered in ~~said~~ an image database, and extracting ~~[[an]]~~ image data ~~[[of]]~~ from a predetermined region ~~included in said~~ of at least one of said items of image data;

designating said extracted image data ~~of said predetermined region~~ as an image serving as a retrieval key image; and

using comparing said ~~designated~~ retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data ~~and retriev[[e]]ing~~ from said image database image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

8. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving ~~desired~~ image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising;

a retrieval key image extractor for extracting image~~[[s]]~~ data from ~~serving as a retrieval key for search through~~ said plurality of items of image data registered in said image database;

a storage for storing said extracted ~~retrieval key image~~~~[[s]]~~ data therein;

a retrieval key image designator for designating a ~~desired~~ retrieval key image ~~among said stored retrieval key images~~ from the stored extracted image data; and

a retriever for using comparing said designated retrieval key image to more than one item of image data ~~and retriev[[e]]ing~~ from said image database more than one item of image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said extractor extracts an image of a predetermined region included in said image data registered.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said image of said predetermined region is an image of a face of a person.

11. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising: ~~In order to retrieve desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, an image data retrieval program causing a computer to effect the steps of:~~

~~extracting [[an]] image data from serving as a retrieval key for search through said a plurality of items of image data registered in said an image database;~~

~~storing in a storage said extracted image data from more than one of said plurality of items of image data said retrieval key image extracted;~~

~~designating a desired retrieval key image from the stored extracted image data among said more than one retrieval key image stored; and~~

~~[[using]] comparing said designated retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data and retriev[[e]]ing from said image database more than one item of image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.~~

12. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising:

a retrieval key image extractor for extracting [[an]] image data ~~serving as a retrieval key for search through~~ from said plurality of items of image data registered in said image database;

a storage for storing ~~more than one said extracted retrieval key image data from at least two items of image data~~ therein;

a retrieval key image designator for designating more than one ~~desired~~ retrieval key image ~~among said more than one retrieval key image stored~~ from the stored extracted image data; and

a retriever for ~~using~~ comparing said more than one designated retrieval key image to more than one item of image data and retriev[[e]]ing from said image database image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said extractor extracts an image of a predetermined region included in said image data registered.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said image of said predetermined region is an image of a face of a person.

15. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising: In order to retrieve ~~desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, an image data retrieval program causing a computer to effect the steps of:~~

extracting [[an]] image data from ~~serving as a retrieval key for search through said a~~ plurality of items of image data registered in said an image database;

storing in a storage extracted image data from more than one of said plurality of items of image data ~~said retrieval key image extracted~~;

designating more than one ~~desired~~ retrieval key image from said stored extracted image data ~~among said more than one retrieval key image stored in said storage~~; and

[[using]] comparing said more than one designated retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data and retriev[[e]]ing from said image database image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

16. (Currently Amended) The image data retrieval apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
~~An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising:~~

an image obtainer for obtaining information corresponding to an image;

a table for having recorded therein said information and ~~an image serving as a~~ the retrieval key image, correlated with each other; and

a converter for referring to said table to convert said information to a retrieval key image[[]]; and

~~a retriever for using said retrieval key image to retrieve from said image database image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.~~

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said information obtainer obtains more than one item of information.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said image of said predetermined region is an image of a face of a person.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said obtainer obtains information in a form of a name of a person.

20. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises: ~~In order to retrieve desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, an image data retrieval program causing a computer to effect the steps of:~~

obtaining information corresponding to an image; and

converting said information to a retrieval key image with reference to a table having recorded therein said information and ~~an image serving as a~~ the retrieval key image, correlated with each other[[]]; and

~~using said retrieval key image to retrieve from said image database image data including an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.~~

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said retrieval key image is extracted by positioning a pointer on a portion of said face and dragging said pointer.

22. (New) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising:

an extractor for extracting an image of a predetermined region from said image data registered in said image database;

a retrieval key image designator for designating said extracted image as an image serving as a retrieval key; and

a retriever for using said retrieval key image to retrieve from said image database image data containing an image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image,

wherein said retrieval key image is a partial image having an area of said image data registered in said image database and said retriever compares said retrieval key image and an image having an area of said image data registered in said image database for retrieval.